

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

March 6, 2017

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Investigation of aviation school plane crash continues (0:11)

Setting the Scene



Part of the Tecnam plane owned by Mount Royal University, which crashed on February 13th (CBC file photo)

On February 13th, there was a plane crash just outside Calgary. The plane was owned by the aviation (flight) training program of Mount Royal University. The two pilots inside the plane were flight instructors at the university. Both men died in the crash. This accident was a surprise and a terrible loss for the university and the community. Both instructors, Jeffrey Bird and Reynold Johnson, were experienced pilots. The details of the crash are still unknown, but they are being investigated.

Pre-listening Questions

When people die suddenly and tragically, how do their communities usually honour their death?

What do you think is the safest form of transportation? Which makes you feel the most comfortable?

Do you like flying? Do you know anyone who is afraid of flying?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
_____	aviation (n.)	1. motor, machine
_____	engine (n.)	2. borrowed, rented
_____	instructors (n.)	3. accident, wreck
_____	crash (n.)	4. goes on, keeps going
_____	investigation (n.)	5. machine-run, automatic
_____	continues (v.)	6. flight, air travel
_____	leased (adj.)	7. separate, split
_____	break up (v.)	8. teachers, trainers
_____	mechanical (adj.)	9. examination, research

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_376bbu

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. ____ Students in Mount Royal University's aviation program will no longer fly planes.
2. ____ The instructors killed last month were flying a twin-engine Tecnam plane.
3. ____ The school owns two Tecnam planes.
4. ____ Teachers will fly single-engine Cessna 172 planes.
5. ____ They will also fly two or three more twin-engine planes.
6. ____ Students were back in class last week for the first time since the crash.
7. ____ The Transportation Safety Board has finished its investigation.
8. ____ The investigators say the plane did not break up in the air.
9. ____ This means the plane went up very quickly.
10. ____ They say they will never know if the crash was caused by a person or machine error.

Food for Thought

In your country, what do you do when people die?

How do you think the school can support students who are upset about the accident?

Do stories like these make you nervous about flying? How can nervous flyers feel calm?

News story #2 Couple raising money for daughter's cancer treatment (1:33)

Setting the Scene



Greta Marofke, who is three years old, has liver cancer. (gofundme) (CBC file photo)

When people think of serious illnesses, they usually imagine adults, or even the elderly. It is very surprising and sad when children get very sick. Cancer is not very common in young children. However, it can still be deadly. Medical treatments can often be very expensive. This is because procedures and medicine can cost a lot of money. Also, sometimes one parent has to stop working to care for their sick child every day. These situations are very sad and difficult for families. They can be very stressful for families' finances, too.

Pre-listening Questions

Have you ever been to the hospital? What illness did you have?

Have you been to a hospital in Canada? Are they different from your home country?

What kind of treatments do people get when they are sick?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

rare (adj.)	uncommon, unusual
diagnosed (v.)	to have your illness identified by a doctor
treated (v.)	received medical care
successfully (adv.)	done with a good or correct result
toddler (n.)	a young child at the age of learning to walk to 4 years old
chances (n.)	how likely it is that something will happen
guarantee (n.)	a promise that something will happen

1. After feeling unhealthy for weeks, Maria went to the doctor. She was _____ with the flu. Luckily, this illness can be _____ with medicine and lots of rest.
2. When babies become _____ and start trying to walk, _____ are high that they will fall down several times. Parents need to watch them carefully to make sure they don't get hurt.
3. Many students have a difficult time in this class. The school cannot _____ that every student will finish the class _____.
4. My home country is very hot, and ice-skating is a _____ skill because it never gets cold. However, in Canada, it seems most people know how to skate.

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

raise money – collect donations of money for a specific purpose

liver – a large and essential organ in the body that helps digest and process substances

transplant – an operation where a sick or failing part of the body (like an organ) is replaced

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_376bpa

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Listening Activity

Multiple Choice

Read the following sentences. Then listen to the audio and circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. A Calgary couple is trying to raise money for a treatment for their **3-month-old / 3-year-old / 13-year-old** daughter.
2. The girl has a rare type of **cold / calcium / cancer**.
3. The girl, whose name is Greta, was diagnosed with the illness just **days / weeks / months** before her second birthday.
4. She was treated, but then the illness came back in **August / October / autumn**.
5. A doctor in the U.S. says that a liver transplant could work, but doctors in **Ontario / Alberta / Atlantic Canada** won't do one.
6. Doctors say that the girl's chances of surviving aren't very **clear / helpful / high**.
7. The family is trying to raise **500 / 5,000 / 500,000** dollars.
8. That amount is **hopefully / half / all** of what the transplant will cost in the U.S.
9. Greta's mother says she has to do what **she wants / she has / she can** for her daughter.

Food for thought

This family is raising money online. What are some other reasons that people raise money?

Why do you think the transplant will be so expensive in the U.S.?

Do you think health care is cheap or expensive in Canada? How does it compare to your home country?

News story #3 Wrong movie announced at Academy Awards (2:50)

Setting the Scene



Actors Mahershala Ali (left), Emma Stone (centre) and Ryan Gosling (right) on stage at the Academy Awards (Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP) (CBC file photo)

The Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars, are American movie awards that are given once a year. They give awards for actors, directors, music, costumes, makeup, writing, and many other parts of moviemaking. The awards are a glamorous event. People wear very beautiful formal clothes and walk down a red carpet to the theatre. There is a lot of media attending this red carpet event, taking photos and interviewing the actors and directors. The awards are watched on TV by millions of people around the world. To win these awards is a big honour for a person working in the movie industry.

Pre-listening Questions

What kind of movies do you like to watch?

Do you watch movies at home, in the theatre or somewhere else?

Have you heard of any of the movies or people who won Academy Awards this year?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions.
Answers are in the appendix.

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	ceremony (n.)	a) happened by mistake, unexpectedly
_____	industry (n.)	b) the last in a series
_____	presenting (v.)	c) the people watching or listening to an event
_____	final (adj.)	d) a branch of the economy (e.g., farming, oil and gas)
_____	envelope (n.)	e) without understanding, uncertainty
_____	accidentally (adv.)	f) formally giving something to someone
_____	reality (n.)	g) people whose job is to keep records of money and spending
_____	confusion (n.)	h) a formal event for a special occasion
_____	audience (n.)	i) the truth; the world that actually exists
_____	accountants (n.)	j) a flat paper container that holds a document

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

in charge of – controlling or responsible for something

producer – the person responsible for the money and management of a movie, TV show, etc.

issue an apology – make a statement of apology in a public and formal way

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_376c7c

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. The wrong movie was given which award at the Academy Awards ceremony?
2. Were Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway receiving the award?
3. Beatty opened an item to announce the winner. What was it?
4. What was wrong with the item?
5. Why were the makers of La La Land excited at first?
6. What was the name of the movie that actually won?
7. What kind of statement did the Academy give afterwards?
8. Who won't be returning to the ceremony next year?

Food for thought

Do you ever watch the Academy Awards, or other awards ceremonies?

Do you think these awards are important?

How do you think winning an award changes the lives of the people working in movies?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MARCH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. I'm Shannon Scott and this is learning English with the CBC for March 6th, with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Students in Mount Royal University's aviation program will no longer fly twin-engine Tecnam planes. That's the same plane that two instructors were flying when they were killed in a crash last month. The school is keeping its two Tecnams on the ground as the investigation into that crash continues. Students will still be able to fly the school's five single-engine Cessna 172 planes, and one or two more leased twin-engine planes. Students were back in class last week for the first time since the crash. Meanwhile, the Transportation Safety Board is continuing its investigation. Investigators say the plane did not break up in the air, which leads them to believe it went down very quickly. However, the investigators also said it's too soon to say if the crash was caused by human error or a mechanical problem.	0:11
Story 2	A Calgary couple is trying to raise money for a life-saving treatment which could save their 3-year-old daughter, who has a rare type of cancer. Lindsey Marofke's daughter Greta was diagnosed with a rare liver cancer days before her second birthday. She was treated successfully, but the cancer came back in August, and doctors told Marofke there was nothing they could do. A doctor in the United States says a liver transplant could work for Greta, but Marofke says doctors in Alberta won't do one because the toddler's chances of survival afterwards aren't high enough. So Greta's family is trying to raise 500-thousand dollars, half of what it will cost to have the transplant done in the United States. Marofke says there is no guarantee the transplant will work, but she has to do what she can for her daughter.	1:33
Story 3	In what may be the biggest mistake in Academy Awards history, the wrong movie was named best picture at the ceremony last week. The awards, also known as Oscars, are one of the biggest prizes for the movie industry. At the show, Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway were presenting the final award of the night: the one for best picture. But when Beatty opened the envelope to announce the winner, he had the wrong one, and La La Land was accidentally named as the Best Picture winner. In reality, the film Moonlight had won the honour. After some confusion onstage as the people in charge of the envelopes tried to figure out what happened, one of the producers of La La Land told the audience that in fact Moonlight had won. The Academy has issued an apology and says the accountants in charge of the envelopes will not be returning to the ceremony next year.	2:50

Answer keys

News story 1

Investigation of aviation school plane crash continues (0:11)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
<u>6</u>	aviation (n.)	1. motor, machine
<u>1</u>	engine (n.)	2. borrowed, rented
<u>8</u>	instructors (n.)	3. accident, wreck
<u>3</u>	crash (n.)	4. goes on, keeps going
<u>9</u>	investigation (n.)	5. machine-run, automatic
<u>4</u>	continues (v.)	6. flight, air travel
<u>2</u>	leased (adj.)	7. separate, split
<u>7</u>	break up (v.)	8. teachers, trainers
<u>5</u>	mechanical (adj.)	9. examination, research

Listening

1. F Students in Mount Royal University's aviation program will no longer fly planes.
2. T The instructors killed last month were flying a twin-engine Tecnam plane.
3. T The school owns two Tecnam planes.
4. F Teachers will fly single-engine Cessna 172 planes.
5. F They will also fly two or three more twin-engine planes.
6. T Students were back in class last week for the first time since the crash.
7. F The Transportation Safety Board has finished its investigation.
8. T The investigators say the plane did not break up in the air.
9. F This means the plane went up very quickly.
10. F They say they will never know if the crash was caused by a person or machine error.

News story 2

Couple raising money for daughter's cancer treatment (1:33)

Vocabulary

1. After feeling unhealthy for weeks, Maria went to the doctor. She was diagnosed with the flu. Luckily, this illness can be treated with medicine and lots of rest.
2. When babies become toddlers and start trying to walk, chances are high that they will fall down several times. Parents need to watch them carefully to make sure they don't get hurt.
3. Many students have a difficult time in this class. The school cannot guarantee that every student will finish the class successfully.
4. My home country is very hot, and ice-skating is a rare skill because it never gets cold. However, in Canada, it seems most people know how to skate.

Listening

1. A Calgary couple is trying to raise money for a treatment for their **3-month-old / 3-year-old / 13-year-old** daughter.
2. The girl has a rare type of **cold / calcium / cancer**.
3. The girl, whose name is Greta, was diagnosed with the illness just **days / weeks / months** before her second birthday.
4. She was treated, but then the illness came back in **August / October / autumn**.
5. A doctor in the U.S. says that a liver transplant could work, but doctors in **Ontario / Alberta / Atlantic Canada** won't do one.
6. Doctors say that the girl's chances of surviving aren't very **clear / helpful / high**.
7. The family is trying to raise **500 / 5,000 / 500,000** dollars.
8. That amount is **hopefully / half / all** of what the transplant will cost in the U.S.
9. Greta's mother says she has to do what **she wants / she has / she can** for her daughter.

News story 3

Wrong movie announced at Academy Awards (2:50)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<u>h</u>	ceremony (n.)	a) happened by mistake, unexpectedly
<u>d</u>	industry (n.)	b) the last in a series
<u>f</u>	presenting (v.)	c) the people watching or listening to an event
<u>b</u>	final (adj.)	d) a branch of the economy (e.g., farming, oil and gas)
<u>i</u>	envelope (n.)	e) without understanding, uncertainty
<u>a</u>	accidentally (adv.)	f) formally giving something to someone
<u>i</u>	reality (n.)	g) people whose job is to keep records of money and spending
<u>e</u>	confusion (n.)	h) a formal event for a special occasion
<u>c</u>	audience (n.)	i) the truth; the world that actually exists
<u>g</u>	accountants (n.)	j) a flat paper container that holds a document

Listening

1. The wrong movie was given which award at the Academy Awards ceremony?
Best Picture
2. Were Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway receiving the award?
No – they were presenting an award
3. Beatty opened an item to announce the winner. What was it?
an envelope
4. What was wrong with the item?
it was the wrong one
5. Why were the makers of La La Land excited at first?
they were announced as the winners
6. What was the name of the movie that actually won?
Moonlight
7. What kind of statement did the Academy give afterwards?
an apology
8. Who won't be returning to the ceremony next year?
the accountants in charge of the envelopes